



**Jewish Federation of Ottawa
Board of Directors Meeting
Summary of Discussion**

Wednesday March 30th
Soloway Jewish Community Centre

In Attendance: Stuart Ages, Harold Feder, Stacy Goldstein, Jennifer Kardash, Linda Kerzner, Steven Kimmel, Arlene Wortsman

Staff: Bram Bregman, Andrea Freedman, Arieh Rosenblum

Observer: Michael Polowin

Recorder: Alecia Laliberte

I: Welcome – Linda Kerzner

Linda Kerzner called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

II: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Linda called for a motion to approve minutes from the February 11th Jewish Federation of Ottawa board of director's meeting.

First – Stuart Ages

Second – Stacy Goldstein

Motion carried

III: President's Report - Andrea Freedman

Andrea provided two updates to the previously distributed report.

- A PJ library report went out to PJ library donors to keep them informed on the great success of the program.
- On March 16th, a small group from Ottawa went to Toronto to meet with Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, who is one of the most influential Jewish thinkers of the 21st century. The purpose of the meeting was to begin a dialogue with Rabbi Sacks about coming to Ottawa to help promote the importance of Jewish education and Jewish life.

IV: School Funding Report- Sarah Beutel

A key deliverable in the second year of implementing Federation's strategic plan is to have a task force review how Federation funds Jewish education. Under the leadership of Jeff Miller, that task force is now underway; however their work will not be complete in time for this year's allocation. Accordingly, the existing formula has been used in preparing the school funding report. , The exception is OJCS, which now receives organizational funding as one of Federation's 5 largest beneficiary organizations.

Providing organizational funding for the 5 largest beneficiary organizations was a change approved as part of last year's grant review task force.

The school report contains an increase of \$30,600 to the Day School Funding Envelope for 2016-17. It is recommended that the entire increase be applied to fund the unified Orthodox day school and OTI/Machon Sarah on a proportioned basis.

Recommended Day School Funding:

- OJCS will receive \$554,526 in Organizational Funding for 2016-17.
- The amount of funding remaining in the envelope after the allocation to the OJCS is \$153,040.

Recommended Supplementary School Funding:

- The Supplementary School Funding Envelope for 2016-17 is \$100,973.
- \$6,000 is earmarked for efforts to improve supplementary schools and promote schools in the community. \$94,973 in funding is available for individual supplementary schools. This is the same level of funding for schools as last year.

Linda asked for a motion to approve the school funding report as submitted.

First – Harold Feder

Second – Jennifer Kardash

Motion carried

V: Grants & Evaluation Committee Report- Arlene Wortsman & Sarah Beutel

Based on approved recommendations from the last year's grants review task force, a new hybrid model of funding has been implemented which provides the 5 largest beneficiary agencies with organizational funding, based on a tailored accountability framework. All other agencies receive program funding. A good governance check-list for all agencies has also been implemented. It reinforces the need for accountability and transparency.

- New funding available in each envelope:
Assisting the Vulnerable \$30,700
Strengthening Community \$30,700
- The Religious Outreach Envelope has been combined with the strengthening community envelope.

As part of the iterative process with the 5 largest beneficiary agencies to create tailored accountability frameworks, agencies suggested some changes to the general requirements section that apply to all agencies, resulting in discrepancies that needed to be addressed so that all of the agencies are treated the same way and held to the same standards of accountability. Accordingly, the general requirements section is still being finalized.

Arlene put forth a motion to the board to approve the Grants & Evaluation Committee Report as submitted, pending signed tailored accountability frameworks.

First – Arlene Wortsman

Second – Harold Feder

Motion carried

VI: Orthodox Day School Unification – Steven Kimmel & Bram Bregman

- As previously reported, on February 18th, the parent bodies of **Torah Academy and Rambam** overwhelmingly voted to unify the student bodies and for Ottawa to have one Orthodox elementary school starting September 2016.

Key Elements of Agreement:

- The school will provide instruction to approximately 130 students with an aim to provide excellent general and Judaic studies.
- It is not a legal merger, it is a unification of the two schools. The unified school will keep the structure of Torah Academy, and be located there to start.
- The new parent body will vote early next year on a name change.
- A full time vice principal of general studies, and a full time resource teacher for students with special needs will be hired and enhanced French will be offered in the future.

A transition committee is in place, meeting every three weeks. The main areas of focus are: integration of students, family and staff, governance review and fundraising.

VII: Incentivizing Jewish life-Andrea Freedman

Since the presentation to the board in the summer on incentivizing Jewish life, progress has been made in a number of areas.

- 2 donor families provided \$130,000 to explore concepts.
- A company called Measuring Success was hired to do market research and social mapping.
- A main piece of the strategy was to launch a community survey of young families. The survey will launch on April 4 and close April 25. A presentation of the findings will be presented to the board and key stakeholders in mid-June.
- Through intense efforts, 725 families with emails were identified. Of these:
 - 526 are known to be Jewish with certainty
 - **13** connectors will personally send the survey to **375** families + **151** on the PJ Library list
 - The remainder will hopefully be reached through social media and community-wide eblasts

VII: Mid- Year Board Check-in Next Steps- Linda Kerzner

The Board was thanked for providing feedback as part of the mid-year board check-in. The feedback was useful and a memo was circulated with some changes to ensure that the board functions as effectively and efficiently as possible.

IX: World Jewish Congress Conference Report- Linda Kerzner

Linda shared the results of an amazing and inspiring opportunity that she participated in as one of 20 Canadians in a 3 day plenary of the World Jewish Congress in Argentina in mid-March. This included gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the Argentinian Jewish community after the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy and the AMIA community center in 1994.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm